In the Claims

Please amend the Claims as follows.

1. (Currently amended) A system for electronic supply chain management and collaborative planning, including:

a plurality of hubs, remotely coupled to each other;

a set of supply chain information stored in a database coupled to each said hub, wherein said set of supply chain information is owned by business entities relatively proximate to each said hub;

a set of regional authorities controlling access to said supply chain ~~set of~~ information;

a first server coupled to at least one of said hubs, wherein said first server is dedicated to process a first message type that requires access to and processing of said supply chain information stored in said database ~~for complex tasks~~;

a second server coupled to said at least one of said hubs, wherein said second server is dedicated to process a second message type that does not require access to and processing of said supply chain information stored in said database ~~for simple tasks~~; and

a computer program coupled to said at least one of said hubs to receive a message generated from a client device identifying a transaction, to determine whether said message requires access to and processing of said supply chain information stored in said database ~~is said first message type or said second message type~~ based on said transaction, to send said message to said first server when said message is determined to be said first message type, and to send said message to said second server when said message is determined to be said second message type.

2. (Currently amended) A system as in claim 1, wherein at least one hub is designated as a said regional authority to control synchronization of said set of supply chain information stored at other said hubs.

3. (Currently amended) A system as in claim 2, wherein said set of supply chain information is synchronized by restricting which hub in said plurality of hubs can perform a write operation to the set of information.

4. (Original) A system as in claim 2, wherein said regional authority includes a token, wherein said token permits said regional authority to exercise control.

5. (Previously Submitted) A system as in claim 2, wherein the designation of said regional authority is determined by at least one of the following: (1) subnet location, (2) class of goods, (3) proximity to a valued client, and (4) network locations as measured by geography or network location.

6. (Original) A system as in claim 2, wherein the designation of said regional authority is responsive to which hub in said plurality of hubs is experiencing more business activity than other hubs in said plurality of hubs.

7. (Previously Submitted) A system as in claim 6, wherein said business activity is measured by at least one of the following: (1) number of transactions, (2) number of units being traded, and (3) monetary value of transactions.

8. (Currently amended) A system as in claim 1, wherein said supply chain information regards an electronic transaction performed by said hub or a business entity that conducts business using said hub.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for processing transactions at a hub for electronic supply chain management, said method including steps of:

receiving messages from at least one client device at a software module of a local hub, said software module executable by a processing device, said local hub coupled to a database of information regarding supply chain management;

parsing each of said messages and determining whether each message requires access to and processing of information stored in said database ~~a relative complexity of tasks associated with said messages~~;

separating each of said messages into a first type of message or a second type of message ~~based on the relative complexity of tasks associated with said messages~~, wherein

said first type of message requires access to and processing of information stored in said database ~~processing~~, and said second type of message does not require access to and processing of information stored in said database ~~processing~~;

sending said first type of message to a heavyweight server, wherein said heavyweight server accesses information stored in said database, processes said first type of message and said information stored in said database, and transmits data resulting from the processing of said first type of message and said information stored in said database ~~first type of message is processed and transmitted from said heavyweight server~~; and

sending said second type of message to a lightweight server, wherein said second type of message is transmitted from said lightweight server without accessing and processing information stored in said database.

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Previously submitted) A method as in claim 9, further including steps of performing a series of calculations and storing a result in said database.

12. (Cancelled).

13. (Cancelled).

14. (Currently Amended) A module including instructions executable by a processing device, the instructions including:

receiving messages from a user at a local hub, said local hub coupled to a database of information for supply chain management;

parsing each of said messages and determining whether each message requires access to and processing of information stored in said database ~~a relative complexity of tasks associated with said messages~~;

separating each of said messages into a first type of message or a second type of message ~~based on said relative complexity of tasks associated with said messages~~, wherein said first type of message requires access to and processing of information stored in said database ~~processing~~, and said second type of message does not require access to and processing of information stored in said database ~~processing~~;

sending said first type of message to a heavyweight server, wherein said heavyweight server accesses information stored in said database, processes said first type of message and said information stored in said database, and transmits data resulting from the processing of said first type of message and said information stored in said database ~~first type of message is processed and transmitted from said heavyweight server~~and

sending said second type of message to a lightweight server, wherein said second type of message is transmitted from said lightweight server without accessing and processing information stored in said database.

15. (Currently Amended) A module as in claim 14, further including instructions for receiving and processing said first type of message with said information stored in said database ~~a set of information at said heavyweight server~~.

16. (Currently Amended) A module as in claim 14, further including instructions for performing a series of calculations and storing a result in said ~~a~~ database.

17-20. (Cancelled).

21. (Currently Amended) A system for electronic supply chain management and collaborative planning, including:

a plurality of local hubs, remotely coupled to each other, each of said plurality of local hubs including:

~~a heavyweight server to process a first type of message that requires complex processing;~~

~~a lightweight server to process a second type of message that does not require complex processing; and~~

a database to store supply chain information, wherein said supply chain information is owned by business entities relatively proximate to each said local hub;

a heavyweight server to process a first type of message that requires access to and processing of said supply chain information stored in said database; and

a lightweight server to process a second type of message that does not require access to and processing of said supply chain information stored in said database;

a first regional authority corresponding to one of said plurality of local hubs for controlling access to said supply chain information in databases associated with a first group of said plurality of local hubs;

a second regional authority corresponding to another one of said plurality of local hubs for controlling access to said supply chain information in databases associated with a second group of said plurality of local hubs; and

a communication network to communicate between said first regional authority and said second regional authority, wherein said first regional authority requests instructions for obtaining data under control of said second regional authority.

22. (Previously Submitted) A system as in claim 21, wherein said one of said plurality of local hubs is designated as said first regional authority and said other one of said plurality of local hubs is designated as said second regional authority based on factors selected from a group consisting of a physical region in which said first and second groups of said plurality of local hubs are located, a class of goods in databases associated with said first and second groups of said plurality of local hubs, a subnet location, a proximity to a valued client, and a network location as measured by a ping time.

23. (Currently Amended) A system for electronic supply chain management and collaborative planning, including:

a plurality of local hubs, remotely coupled to each other via a communication network and each including:

a database to store a set of information, wherein said set of information is owned by business entities relatively proximate to each said hub;

a first server to process a first message type that requires access to and processing of said information stored in said database ~~for complex tasks using said set of information~~;

a second server to process a second message type that does not require access to and processing of said information stored in said database ~~for simple tasks~~; and

a computer program executable by at least one of said first and second servers in response to a message from a client device identifying a transaction, to determine whether said message is said first message type or said second message type based on said transaction, to send said message to said first server when said message is determined to be said first message type, and to send said message to said second server when said message is determined to be said second message type.

24. (New) A system as in claim 1, wherein a given regional authority of said set of regional authorities has authority over said at least one of said hubs, and the computer program submits the message to said given regional authority in order to write data from said message to said database.